



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/030,710  | 02/25/1998  | PETER C. CHEN        | M-3206-1C           | 7700             |
| 27498   | 7590        | 04/19/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP<br>P.O. BOX 10500<br>MCLEAN, VA 22102 |             |                      | DINH, DUNG C        |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2153                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |
|                              | 09/030,710             | CHEN, PETER C.      |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |
|                              | Dung Dinh              | 2153                |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL.                  2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-10,17-19,21-28,30-35 and 38-51 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,6-10,17-19,21-28, 30-35, 38-51 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 1/30/06 have been fully considered.

Applicant's argument regarding the 112 rejection of claims 24, 33, 43 and 47 is persuasive. The 112 rejection of these claims is withdrawn.

Regarding the art rejection, applicant argued essentially that Bailey fails to teach the UART emulation. The argument is not persuasive. Even though Bailey does not specifically uses the term "UART emulation", Bailey teaches the functionality of a UART emulation as claimed.

Take claim 1 as an example, the claim recites "*the driver comprises a UART emulation which in response to an access targeted at a register set of a UART corresponding to the first communication port, converts the access as required for the register set and address assignment of the device.*" The claim language itself defines the functions of a UART emulation. Therefore, according to the claim language, a driver that can redirect an access request to a UART register set to the register set of the device would contain a UART emulation.

Bailey teaches a method for connecting a modem to the parallel port instead of the serial port as conventional modem.

Art Unit: 2153

Hence, Bailey modem is a non-standardized modem device. In order to make his modem compatible with existing software, Bailey teaches providing software emulation of the serial port so that communication to the serial port is redirected to the parallel port to his modem connected thereto. Hence, it appears to the operating system and application software that they are communicating to a conventional modem. See col.5 lines 28-32, 43-52.

It is well known in the art the essential component of a serial port is the UART. The UART is the component that converts data bytes from the computer to serial bits and vice versa. Communication in the computer to a serial port is essentially sending data the register set of the UART. Hence, emulating a serial port is a UART emulation. Bailey serial port emulator, in response to access to the serial port, redirects the access to his modem device. Hence, Bailey performs the "UART emulation" function as claimed.

Claims 46-49 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as stated in the prior office action.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 17-18, 23, 19, 21-22, 24-28, 30-32, 33, 35, 38-42, 43-45, 50-51 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as stated in the prior office action.

**Conclusion**

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Dinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-3943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

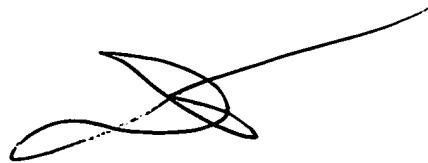
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached at (571) 272-3949.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval

Art Unit: 2153

(PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dung Dinh  
Primary Examiner  
April 12, 2006